



2020 Rural Education Fund Grant Recipients (in alphabetical order by school district name)

Appling County Schools: \$5,000 for Digital Reading Materials

Recent school and public library closures due to COVID-19 have exacerbated the critical need for access to digital reading resources in Appling County. The district will use its Rural Education Fund grant to join the First District RESA Consortium Overdrive Collaborative, a partnership of surrounding school districts pooling buying power for a shared digital reading collection.

Ben Hill County Middle School, Ben Hill County Schools: \$1,678 for Digital Reading Materials

Ben Hill County Middle School will use its Rural Education Fund grant to purchase digital reading materials for students. Currently, seventh-graders at the school are reading *Red Scarf Girl*, and there are 90 paperback copies available for 240 students. The grant funds will allow the school to serve its virtual and face-to-face students this fall and avoid the need to share resources.

Bleckley County Schools: \$5,000 for a Mobile Library

Bleckley County Schools will direct its Rural Education Fund grant toward its ongoing renovation of a 2001 Blue Bird bus into the *Rolling Royal Reader*, which will provide books and reading material to low-income students in Pre-K through fifth grade.

Calhoun County Schools: \$5,000 for Mobile Technology

Calhoun County Schools will use its Rural Education Fund grant to purchase Chromebooks for students to use at home for virtual instruction. The devices will allow students to participate in virtual and recorded courses for instruction, and to directly upload assignments made by their teachers.

Dade County High School, Dade County Schools: \$5,000 for 3-D Printer, NASA HUNCH Partnership

Dade County High School plans to partner with the NASA HUNCH program to produce new, innovative flight replacement parts for U.S. Army helicopters. In order to participate, the school is in need of a 3-D printer; they will use their Rural Education Fund grant to purchase one, helping students gain workforce-ready skills in manufacturing, technology, design, and assembly.

Susie Dasher Elementary School, Dublin City Schools: \$5,000 for Mobile Technology

Susie Dasher Elementary will use its Rural Education Fund grant to purchase 15 Chromebooks, which will be used to expand access to technology and provide intensive, individualized interventions for students. The Chromebooks will support school leaders' efforts to ensure all students receive access to a quality education, and to close academic gaps for traditional, online, and blended learners, in the year ahead.

Early County Schools: \$5,000 for Mobile Technology

This small district of just under 2,000 students has seen nearly 150 sign up for online learning for the 2020-21 school year, and parents of more than 100 students reported that they would lease a device from the school district if available. Early County Schools will use its Rural Education Fund grant to purchase Chromebooks for students.

Greene County Schools: \$4,980 for Wireless Hotspots

Greene County Schools will use its Rural Education Fund grant to purchase 83 wireless hotspots to close the access gap for the 33% of families in the district who live outside of areas served by broadband providers. The district's local ESPLIST funding will be used to support the ongoing connectivity charges.

Hart County High School, Hart County Schools: \$5,000 to Support At-Risk Freshmen

Hart County High will use its Rural Education Fund grant to provide focused, daily support to at-risk freshmen by pairing them with a caring, motivating adult each day. The funds will provide opportunities for the group to make college and industry visits, reward positive behavior and successes, and supplement support systems to improve literacy and math skills daily.

Heard County High School, Heard County Schools: \$3,000 for a College Exploration Fund

Due to COVID-19, Heard County High will be unable to provide group campus visits for college-interested students, thus placing the financial responsibility of exploring college options on families – and often directly on the student. The school will use its Rural Education Fund grant to create a college exploration fund, providing one-time awards of up to \$150 for students to use for an in-state campus visit and/or application fee(s).

Wrens Elementary School, Jefferson County Schools: \$5,000 for Interactive Science Kits

Wrens Elementary School will use its Rural Education Fund grant to purchase interactive science kits to address the third- through fifth-grade curriculum, allowing students to have hands-on experience and access to digital resources. The kits will ensure science teachers have access to current technology and materials to support the school's growing STEM initiatives.

Jenkins County Elementary School, Jenkins County Schools: \$5,000 for Mobile Technology

Most of Jenkins County Elementary's students do not have access to reliable internet or an electronic device; the school will use its Rural Education Fund grant to purchase USB devices and Chromebooks for periods of at-home learning. The USB drives will contain content instruction and instructional materials.

Jenkins County High School, Jenkins County Schools: \$5,000 for Arts Education

Jenkins County High School does not currently offer an art course to students; the school will use its Rural Education Fund grant to establish one – purchasing supplies, providing professional development for the course's teacher, and investing in marketing materials for local sales of student art projects to ensure the continuation of the course.

Lincoln County Schools: \$5,000 for Mobile Technology

Lincoln County Schools will use its Rural Education Fund grant to purchase Chromebooks to provide for students requesting virtual learning. After the COVID-19 pandemic, the devices will be used in computer science courses.

Meriwether County Schools: \$4,994 for School Bus Wi-Fi Transmitters

Many Meriwether County Schools students lack internet service or have inadequate service, and school closures and requests for remote learning have led to students completing assignments from their homes without internet. To address this need, the district will use its Rural Education Fund grant to equip 11 school buses with Wi-Fi transmitters.

Manchester Middle School, Meriwether County Schools: \$5,000 for STEM Instruction

Manchester Middle School has identified a need to improve student application of critical thinking skills to solve real-world and local problems through collaboration. The school will use its Rural

Education Fund to expand its STEM initiatives, improving student-centered learning by giving students the opportunity for problem-based instruction.

Miller County Middle School, Miller County Schools: \$5,000 for Technology Supplies

Miller County Middle School does not currently have access to one-to-one technology, and given the COVID-19 pandemic school leaders are concerned about students sharing Chromebooks and headphones. The school will use its Rural Education Fund grant to purchase additional technology supplies for students.

Pelham Elementary School, Pelham City Schools: \$5,000 for a Mobile STEM Lab

Pelham Elementary School will use its Rural Education Fund grant to create a mobile STEM lab, aiming to transform fifth-grade science into a STEM-focused, hands-on laboratory so students can experience science through exploration and experimentation as they prepare for the transition into middle school.

Pike County Middle School, Pike County Schools: \$5,000 for Professional Skill Development

Pike County Middle School will use its Rural Education Fund grant to purchase software and curriculum for "Professional Pirates," a program designed to equip students with an understanding of how to seek, apply and interview for, and retain employment. The school has partnered with local businesses to develop the program.

Quitman County Schools: \$5,000 for Mobile Hotspot Internet Service

Quitman County Schools' students live in a rural area where the population is sparse, and are preparing to offer virtual learning and blended instruction in the coming year. The district will use its Rural Education Fund grant to purchase mobile hotspot internet service for students who do not have an internet connection at home.

Schley County Elementary and Middle Schools, Schley County Schools: \$5,000 for Teacher Training on Virtual Learning

Schley County Schools will use its Rural Education Fund grant to provide teacher training on Edgenuity, the platform the school will use to offer a virtual learning option for parents during the 2020-21 school year.

Central of Talbotton, Talbot County Schools: \$5,000 to Expand STEAM, Soft Skills Program

Central of Talbotton will use its Rural Education Fund grant to expand Central's Game of Life, a program which aims to enhance students' interest and performance in STEAM subjects while fostering employability and soft skills. School leaders will form intentional partnerships with local industry to expand the program beyond the business classroom to serve all students and teachers at the school.

Cooper Carver Elementary School, Terrell County Schools: \$5,000 for Robotics Program

Cooper Carver Elementary will use its Rural Education Fund grant to implement a 21st Century Robotics program for all fourth- and fifth-grade students, working closely with the local partners who guided the implementation of Terrell High School's Robotics Team. The team will provide hands-on STEAM learning opportunities and give students an opportunity to solve problems through communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking.

Terrell County Middle School, Terrell County Schools: \$5,000 for Computer Science Implementation

Terrell County Middle is scheduled to implement its first computer science course this year; the school will use its Rural Education Fund grant to provide professional learning, update a computer lab, and purchase physical computing devices needed to help students master computer science standards.

Upson-Lee High School, Thomaston County Schools: \$2,500 for Podcasting Equipment

Upson-Lee High School will use its Rural Education Fund grant to purchase podcasting equipment – a tablet/computer, soundboard, microphones, and headphones – for ELA students. Students will create podcasts teaching the subjects taught in class, reach out to experts to serve as guests on the podcast, and learn to use the podcasting equipment.

Warren County Middle and High School, Warren County Schools: \$5,000 for Safe Food Delivery

Warren County Middle/High School will return to school under a Hybrid A/B schedule to promote social distancing and a safer environment for students, and the school cafeteria will provide alternative ways to deliver breakfast and lunch to students while maintaining a food-safe environment and proper temperature controls. The school will use its Rural Education Fund grant to invest in four covered food delivery carts and ten large insulated coolers, to ensure all food delivered to classrooms or placed on buses for home delivery is appropriately covered and temperature-controlled.

Washington County Schools: \$5,000 for Mobile Hotspot Internet Service

In Washington County Schools, a small rural district located in central Georgia, many students lack access to reliable internet service, and broadband is not available in most areas. The district will use its Rural Education Fund grant to purchase mobile hotspots for identified students.